

A NEWSPAPER  
PEOPLE READ AND  
OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN  
ORGAN OF  
MCDOWELL COUNTY

# THE MCDOWELL TIMES

FROM THE BILLION  
COAL FIELD IN THE  
GEOGRAPHICAL CEN-  
TER OF INDUSTRY

VOL. XXXVIII

KEYSTONE, WEST, VIRGINIA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1940

NUMBER 37

## Many Years Ago Race Was Aided By Willkie

NEW YORK, N.Y. — When L. Willkie in his poorer days made scores of close friendships with Negroes and Negro groups and he has retained many of them in his march to the top of the business ladder. It was back in the 1920's when he returned from his service in the World War and joined the legal staff of the Firestone Tire and Rubber company at Akron that Mr. Willkie first came to the interested attention of large groups of colored citizens.

At once Mr. Willkie entered Akron's dramatic struggle against the Ku Klux Klan which controlled most of the city judgeships and other civic offices. The colored citizens of Ohio readily recall Mr. Willkie's work in this connection. Then in 1924 he won more fame as a KKK enemy when he fought William (Gibbs) McAdoo because the latter supported the Klan.

Even before his work in Ohio, however, Mr. Willkie gained the lifetime friendship of scores of colored soldiers who were stranded in France after the 1918 Armistice. These soldiers with many more white soldiers

had been accused of various scrapes while enlisted and their cases had to be argued before Army courts martial. Voluntarily and with no compensation Mr. Willkie remained in France to defend these soldiers. To hundreds of them, of all races, he came to be known as the "Guard House Lawyer."

Mr. Willkie's early life and work brought him face to face with all strata of humanity. At various times, during summer vacations and other periods he was a dishwasher and short order cook, a steel worker outside Chicago, a migratory farm worker in California, a worker on a Puerto Rico sugar plantation, and a barker for a tent hotel in the boom town of Aberdeen, South Dakota; he milked cows in Wisconsin, he husked corn in Iowa, dressed tools for a water driller in Texas, ran a cement block machine in Wyoming and followed the wheat harvest through Oklahoma and Kansas with a roving threshing crew. Moving from job to job he often rode box cars, hobo style. In college he acquired the reputation of a debating team spell-binder and campus radical.

## BOSNIAN NAMED TO MASS DEFENSE COM.

Boston, Mass.—Ray W. Guild, president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been named by Governor Saltonstall as a member of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety it was announced last week.

According to the Governor the committee, which comprises 150 individuals from all walks of life organized to direct defense activities throughout the state "will support the military authorities in such ways as may require civilian cooperation."

## WANTS NEGROES ON U. S. DRAFT BOARD

New York.—In order to assure just and equitable treatment of Negro citizens under the administration of the proposed Burke-Wadsworth Conscription bill, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has urged its members throughout the country to fight for the appointment of Negroes to local draft boards which will be set up when the bill finally becomes law.

Announcement of the Association's action on this matter was contained in a letter

## State Representatives Assemble In Charleston

Miners, professional men, and women gathered from ten counties at Charleston last Saturday afternoon in the K. of P. Hall on Washington St. The meeting was in response to the call of Attorney H. J. Capehart, Director of the Colored Division of the Republican State Headquarters.

Enthusiasm was manifest throughout the period of an open forum when representatives told of political conditions in their communities, and pledged, with purpose, their determination to bring precinct success to the Republican party.

The audience was moved again and again by the pointed and forceful remarks of Atty. Capehart, James Wade and S. R. Anderson, the headquarters personnel; and Mrs. Julia Wilkerson, Fayette county; the Rev. Smoot, Boone; Capt. G. E.

Ferguson and T. G. Nutter, Kanawha county; and the miners of other numerous counties.

Republican Party Chairmen of the state were petitioned in a resolution to appoint representative and efficient Negroes to serve in connection with their respective campaign headquarters, and that Negroes be given representation on the election boards in precincts where there are an appreciable number of colored voters.

S. R. Anderson, Supervisor of Publicity and Field Work, Colored Headquarters, said:

"The Republican Party believes in a tinged community. They believe in recapturing this state and nation, and through Willkie, Sweney, Dawson, Hallanan

and Kay it will imbibe again the spirit of Lincoln. Motivated with this unctious of freedom and Justice it will pioneer once again as the party of the common man."

## HARRY J. CAPEHART APPOINTS PERSONNEL

Harry J. Capehart, Director of the Colored Division of the State Republican Headquarters announced the appointment of the following personnel:

Dr. Norman L. Collins, Beckley, Assistant Director; James F. Wade, Buckhannon, Supervisor of Speakers, Bureau; S. R. Anderson, Bluefield, Supervisor of Publicity and Field Work; Mrs. Mabel W. Wims, of Williamson, Supervisor of Women's Division; and, Russell W. Sparks, Charleston, Office Secy

## NEGROES DEFEAT BOND ISSUE IN WHICH THEY DON'T SHARE BENEFITS

Atlanta, Ga.—Because the City Council of Atlanta sought to raise millions of dollars to improve the local fire department, public school and hospital facilities, while cutting benefits to Negro citizens down to one-eighth of the total, more than 2,000 registered Negro voters, under the leadership of the local branch of the NAACP defeated the six million dollar bond issue at the polls here on September 4.

The \$1,800,000 school bond, of which \$100,000 was to be allocated to Negro schools, all of which are being run in double sessions, was defeated by approximately 896 votes. The \$2,000,000 for hospitalization and \$2,000,000 for the fire department, were defeated by ap-

## NAACP ASKS CIVIL SERVICE TO RULE ON MASS EXAMS FOR CHARWOMEN

Washington, D.C.—The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has asked the United States Civil Service Commission to rule on the question of whether an administrative officer in a Government agency has the right to require physical examinations of an entire group of workers.

The Association acted after receiving complaints from the Treasury Department char-

women who told the NAACP that they have been told to report to the Public Health Service for examinations without being given any previous notification. According to the women, the rule has been that an examination is required only if an employee has been absent from work often enough to interfere with the performance of her work. This view of the situation was confirmed by one Treasury official.

According to Mrs. Gertrude Stone, vice-president of the branch, J. B. Fox, superintendent in charge of personnel told her that the mass examinations were ordered in order to check the health of employees who might be engaged in tasks

beyond their physical capacity. She said a conference would be held with Treasury officials matched by the NAACP. The Civil Service Commission has handed down a ruling.

## HIS MASTER'S VOICE?



## Mrs. Sarah Speaks Heads Eastern Div.

Representative Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Chairman of the Republican National Committee today announced the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks as Head of the Women's Bureau, Eastern Section of the Colored Division, Willkie-McNary Campaign of 1940, with headquarters in New York.

Mrs. Speaks has been associated with Presidential campaigns since 1928 at which time she was Executive Secretary of the First Voters' Committee of the Colored Division of that year, and also campaigned in 1932 and 1936. She graduated from Dunbar high school in Washington, D.C., and after attending Howard University for one year entered the university of Michigan from which she received the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1924.

After her marriage to Dr. Douglass Speaks, a graduate of Howard Medical school, and removal to New York city, she

entered the Law School of New York University from which she graduated with the degree of Juris Doctor, in 1936. She was admitted to the New York Bar in December, 1936, and has carried on a successful practice ever since.

She was the legislative candidate of the Republican 21st Assembly District of New York in 1937, and cut a normal Democratic majority of 18,000 to less than 300; also she was one of the organizers of the Square Deal Republican club of the 21st Assembly District of New York.

Mrs. Speaks is a member of the Glenn Frank Program Committee, and served from its organization until its final report to the Republican National Committee last February. She is a skillful campaigner in behalf of the principles of the Republican party. Her influence among colored women of the country, and especially in the East is quite generally recognized.

## Rev. James Ganaway Dies In Gilliam: Was Sick One Year

James Monroe Ganaway, 74, died Wednesday morning at his home in Gilliam. The father of Altamont Ganaway, constable of Northfork District, Ganaway had been a resident of McDowell county for 40 years. Death followed an illness of a year.

Rev. Ganaway had been employed by the Gilliam Coal and Coke Company for 35 years after coming to the county from Wythe county, Virginia.

He was a member of the Holiness church of Rolf, but attended the Algoma Baptist church in Algoma where the funeral will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. The Rev. J. W. Crockett will officiate at the services assisted by the Rev. W. M. Turner pastor of the Lovely Zion church in Vivian. Burial will be in the Rolfe cemetery.

Rev. Ganaway was known throughout southern West Virginia.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Roosevelt Voted 1904 GOP Ticket

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — "Democrats who believe in preserving the American tradition, who are against a third term as President for any man, who have other reasons for being dissatisfied with the New Deal administration, yet still have

some hesitancy about voting the Republican ticket, can follow both the precept and example of Franklin D. Roosevelt himself," Robert H. C. Kay, Republican state chairman points out.

"Roosevelt," said Kay "voted for Theodor Roosevelt for President against his own Democratic candidate, Parker. That was in 1904, a long time ago, but Franklin D. Roosevelt justified his bolt of his own party—and it was still the Democratic party in those days, not the New Deal—in 1936 and 1938.

"In 1936, the President in replying to a lady who wanted to support him but came of a Republican family and was in a quandry about what to do, said: 'My father and grandfather were Democrats.' Roosevelt wrote, 'and I was brought up as a Democrat; but in 1904 when I cast my first vote for

President, I VOTED FOR THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE, Theodore Roosevelt.' Such was the Presidents advice to a Republican in 1936 encouraging her to leave her party.

"In 1938," Kay continued, "Roosevelt attempted to justify his 1904 bolt of the Democratic party—the party which he later bolted again in 1933, taking the remnants of the party with him but giving it a new name and totally new principles and philosophies. Speaking at the Jackson Day Dinner in 1938, Roosevelt said he had told the story of his letter to that Republican voter many times; and he added:

"If I had to do it over again, I would not alter that vote." "No real Democrat," asserted Kay, "no real American, need have the slightest twinge of conscience about voting the straight Republican ticket this fall. The Democrats have a precedent in the President. Americans have a vital stake in the results of the November election. Dictatorship of the most tyrannical sort looms in the future unless we go to the polls and vote to continue the American way."

## Negroes Prepared To Test Vote Right Despite Many Warnings

New York — Despite the death of Elbert Williams, an NAACP member active in the Brownsville right-to-vote drive, who was lynched last June, at least twelve members of the association living in this small Tennessee town prepared to appear at the courthouse September 4 and 5 to test their right to pay their poll tax and register for the November Presidential elections.

The group made its decision in the face of an Anti-Negro hysteria which forced the Rev. Buster Walker, president of the local branch, to flee the town in company with Elisha Davis, another member shortly after the Williams lynching, and despite the fact that between 30 and 40 Negro families have moved out of the town for safety.

Calling for federal protection of these citizens in the exercise of their Constitutional right to vote, the NAACP sent the following telegram to Assistant United States Attor-

ney General O. Rogge:

"We are informed Negro citizens of Brownsville, Tenn., are presenting themselves tomorrow, September 4, and on Thursday September 5, to pay poll tax and register to vote in Presidential election in November. Because of lynching of Elbert Williams for inquiring of Brownsville officials regarding procedure to register, and driving out of other Negro citizens from Brownsville for doing the same thing those who plan to register anticipate possible trouble unless Department of Justice and State of Tennessee restrain those who may use mob violence to prevent that exercise of Federal right to register for Federal election. We ask that you instruct Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to be present as observers and to take whatever steps may be necessary to prevent violation of Federal Constitution. Am also wiring Governor Cooper."

(Signed) Walter White, Sec'y. The Association also sent a

telegram to Governor Prentice Cooper, at Nashville, urging him to "instruct state agents to be present as observers and to take whatever steps may be necessary to prevent mob violence."

Commenting on the courageous action of NAACP members in Brownsville, Walter White executive secretary of the organization said:

"We will back up to the limit the forthright action taken by the members of our organization in Brownsville. They demonstrate to the nation the fine spirit and the high courage of Negro citizens in the South, who are determined to win the right to vote, a fundamental element which constitutes the backbone of our fight for democracy."

Mr. White recently returned from Nashville, where he addressed an NAACP-sponsored mass meeting held there August 29 for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the voting campaign throughout the state.